

OI NEWSLETTER - FIRST MONDAY - OCTOBER 2004

FROM THE EDITOR

THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

UNITS

- COMPUTER LAB / John Sanders
- DEVELOPMENT OFFICE / Monica Witczak
- MEMBERSHIP OFFICE / Maria Krasinski
- MUSEUM EDUCATION / Carole Krucoff
- PUBLICATIONS OFFICE / Tom Urban
- RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

INDIVIDUALS

- FRANCOIS GAUDARD
- CHUCK JONES
- WALTER KAEGI

IN THE NEWS

+--+
 FROM THE EDITOR
 +--+

The OI Newsletter appears by way of the automated mailing list:
<https://listhost.uchicago.edu/mailman/listinfo/oi-newsletter>
 The archive of all issues of the newsletter dating back to
 early 1998 is accessible only to members of the list. If you wish to
 have access to the archive, please request your password from:
oinews@babylon-orinst.uchicago.edu
 Please send any other inquiries about the newsletter to the same address.

+--+
 THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
 +--+

Welcome:

It should be obvious to everyone who has been at the OI over the summer that the new academic year is upon us. The building is a bit more active with returning faculty and new and returning students. There are many exciting things that are planned for this upcoming year, but we'll first focus on some of the things that have happened over the summer at the OI.

Staffing Update:

It is a pleasure to begin the year with a full complement of staff. Last year could have been characterized as one long recruitment process. We begin this year with a new CAMEL director, museum director, development director, membership coordinator, post doctoral fellow, and other key research and administrative positions to whom you were introduced during the course of last year. By all accounts we seem to have the right people in place to move these key areas of the OI forward. However, we have had some changes over the summer and here are some of the new faces you will see this year:

Seth Sanders, the new postdoctoral fellow, who is coordinating the upcoming conference, Margins of writing, origins of cultures: Unofficial writing in the ancient Near East and beyond, to be held at the Oriental Institute on February 25-26, 2005. (4-3290, rm 325)

Thomas James, curatorial assistant, working with the museum director on museum management, reinstallation and special projects. (4-8950, rm 219)

Constance Shuett, museum education assistant, working on education tours, registrations and public relations for the education department. (2-9507, rm 221)

Olivia Boyd, administrative assistant to the director, coordinating special events and supporting the director's office. (4-8098, rm 235)

Iman Saca, research associate, continuing her independent research and working with Emily Teeter on the design of the upcoming Palestinian Costume Temporary Exhibit. (4-3289, rm 325)

Office Moves:

Please note that Martha Roth has moved to room 324, Ed Wente has moved to room 314 and Scott Branting has moved to room 207. A Fall 2004 OI Directory will be out shortly with these updates.

Congratulations:

Mac Gibson, on receiving a grant from the Global Heritage Fund to develop master conservation plans and training to help conserve Iraq's most endangered and important archaeological and world heritage sites.

Clemens Reichel, on receiving a multi-year NEH grant to develop a web-based publication of the archaeological excavations from the Diyala region.

David Schloen, on receiving another year of funding from the Shelby White - Leon Levy Foundation to publish the excavations of Beth Yerah and Nahal Tabor in Israel.

Steve Harvey, on receiving a Women's Board Grant to support his excavations at Abydos.

Ray Johnson, on receiving an American Research Center in Egypt award for the Chicago House photographic archive conservation and digital back-up project.

Laura D'Alessandro, on receiving another IMLS Conservation Project Support grant, for the 12th time we should add.

Martha Roth, Monica Witczak and Geoff Emberling on receiving a substantial gift towards the reinstallation of the East Wing Galleries.

Unfortunately we cannot mention all who played a part in bringing these and other external grants and gifts to the OI. All of your efforts are greatly appreciated and we hope to cite more of these achievements in future newsletters.

Facilities Update:

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE / Monica Witczak

It's been a busy three months since I began my tenure as Development Director. In July, the OI received a substantial planned gift which will support the endowment of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. In September, I had the very good fortune of attending a planning meeting for the 2005 Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale. One wonderful and but unexpected consequence of this meeting was a major gift to the OI which will name the Dr. Norman Solhkhah Family Assyrian Empire Gallery. Many, many thanks to Dr. Solhkhah and Martha Roth.

Upcoming Events:

The Co-Trustees of the Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust will be at the OI to tour the museum and library on October 19.

The Visiting Committee will hold its first meeting of academic year 2004-2005 in the Director's Study on November 17th

+--+

MEMBERSHIP OFFICE / Maria Krasinski

Summer is a busy time for the Membership Office. Since joining the office in late June, I've been working to plan this year's members' lectures, special events for the gallery opening, and interesting new travel opportunities. The fall issue of News & Notes came out in September and winter's issue is just around the corner (the deadline for submissions is OCTOBER 8th!). The Annual Report also went to press at the end of September, with Rebecca Laharia remaining editor-in-chief. Our first Members' Lecture of the fall season brought over 130 people to the OI on September 22nd to hear Geoff Emberling, Museum Director, speak on his recent excavations at Tell Brak.

Upcoming fall Membership events include:

- The premiere of the new documentary, Persepolis Recreated, on October 20th, co-sponsored with the Education Office, CMES, Iran House of Greater Chicago, and the Iranian Cultural Society.
- A James Henry Breasted Society dinner and lecture by Gay Robins of Emory University on October 28th. Professor Robins will also be giving an academic talk in Breasted Hall that afternoon at 3pm.
- Another film premiere featuring The Hittites: The Empire that Changed the World on November 11th, also co-sponsored with the Education Office

+--+

MUSEUM EDUCATIION / Carole Krucoff

The Education Office has a new staff member. In-mid August we were very pleased to welcome Constance Schuett as our Museum Education Assistant. Constance received a B.A. in history from Carroll College in Wisconsin in 1999 and a Certificate in Non-Profit Management in 2002. In 2003 she was selected from a

field of 40 candidates to become a Monticello Intern in Museum Education at the Illinois State Museum. During this year-long internship she honed skills in the research, development, and marketing of museum programs and volunteer services. She also has classroom experience as a middle school teacher in history, geography, and art. If you haven't yet done so, please stop by to meet Constance!

This was a very busy summer for Museum Education. Our adult education courses provided members and friends with a variety of opportunities to learn about the ancient Near East. Gabrielle Novacek offered a preview of a major exhibit in the new East Wing with an eight-week course on "Armageddon Revealed: The Ancient Israelite City of Meggido." Joey Corbett taught an eight-week course on "The Ancient Arabs and Their Predecessors: Nomads in the Ancient Near Eastern World." Harold Hays presented a six-session course entitled "Going Forth by Day: The Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead." And Robert Ritner gave a special lecture exploring the role of astronomy in ancient Egyptian culture and religion for "Stars of the Pharaohs," a day-long event with programming at both the Oriental Institute and the Adler Planetarium in conjunction with a new Adler sky-show on ancient Egypt.

Museum Education and the Volunteer Program joined together to reach a new audience when we presented a day-long seminar repeated 4 times in September as a collaborative venture with the Elderhostel organization in Boston. Elderhostel has been asking major museums across the country to develop "days of discovery," so that seniors in large urban centers can become acquainted with a variety of cultural institutions. Our day of discovery, entitled "Mesopotamia: Cradle of Civilization," featured lectures by Geoff Emberling and McGuire Gibson, docent-led tours of the museum galleries, and a special luncheon at the Quadrangle Club. Entirely sold out, these four days brought us 250 visitors, most of whom had been to the Oriental Institute.

Chicago-area teachers had a unique opportunity to learn about ancient Mesopotamia, both at the Oriental Institute and online, during a three-week summer seminar for K-12 educators that was funded by the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation. Offered for two weeks at the Institute, and then as a one-week online experience where teachers could work from home, the seminar gave participants the tools to enrich student learning on Mesopotamian history and culture, enhance students' literacy skills, and also meet federal mandates for implementation of technology in teaching and learning.

Special thanks to Geoff Emberling, Gabrielle Novacek, Martha Roth, Jonathan Tenney, and Karen Wilson, who presented lectures and led discussions during the seminar's teacher-training sessions at the Institute. Carole Krucoff led museum gallery workshops on building students' literacy skills through projects that range from analysis of primary sources to poetry writing inspired by ancient art. Wendy Ennes developed and facilitated the online portion of the seminar, in collaboration with Dr. Iris Stovall, Director of the Illinois Virtual Campus based at the University of Illinois. This ground-breaking on-site/online seminar for teachers is the first of its kind ever to be presented by a Chicago-area cultural institution.

+--+

Work continued on all ten of the volumes in the backlog, remarkable news given that three of the volumes were submitted for publication less than one year before work began on them. Moreover, having finally dug ourselves out of a hole, we have been able to assist with the beginning stages of production of three additional volumes (not yet accepted for publication): the festschrifts for Profs. Robert Biggs and Gene Gragg and the first volume in a new series Oriental Institute Seminars 1, by Donald Whitcomb.

The same students returned to work: Leslie Schramer, Katherine Strange Burke, Katie L. Johnson, Lindsay DeCarlo, and Alexandra Witsell.

OIC 29. Demotic Texts in the Brooklyn Museum, by George R. Hughes, with contributions by Brian Muhs and Steve Vinson. This volume was essentially finished before summer, and then we were reminded that Muhs and Vinson had also viewed the same collection and made contributions. In fact, Vinson's contribution will add at least four plates, and Muhs' will add one ostrakon to a plate. All that remains is to work in the contributions, which aren't extensive, and it's done.

OIC 30. Amuq Valley Regional Projects 1, edited by Aslihan Yener, with chapters by Stephen Batiuk, Aaron Burke, Jesse Casana, Amy Gansell, Timothy Harrison, Hatice Pamir, Tony Wilkinson, and Aslihan Yener, with contribution by Robert Ritner. We prepared preliminary page proofs for the editor and we are entering the corrections and preparing final page proofs to be sent to the contributors.

OIP 124. Tell es-Sweyhat 1 (the land survey volume), by Tony Wilkinson, with contributions by Naomi Miller, Clemens Reichel, and Donald Whitcomb. With the final corrections in hand and being entered, this one goes to press in a couple weeks.

OIP 125. Tell es-Sweyhat 2 (the archaeological report), by Thomas Holland, with contributions by M. Goodway and M. Roaf. The plate volume has been completed, but we got stalled on the tables.

OIP 126. Demotic Texts in the Oriental Institute Collection: Taxes, Tax-Payers, and Tax-receipts in Early Ptolemaic Thebes, by Brian Muhs. We received the final corrections from the author and four additional pieces of artwork (a map of Egypt and three family trees) that really help to explain the complicated text. Corrections are being entered, the volume will be indexed, and it's ready for press.

OIP 127 Megiddo 3: Final Report of the Stratum VI Excavations, by Timothy Harrison, with contributions by Douglas Esse, Andrew Graham, Ronald Hancock, and Patricia Paice. Replacing the artwork on twenty plates has turned out to be no easy task: John Larson had to locate a negative or print of each object (hundreds!), each had to be scanned and masked, the plates recomposed with the new artwork, and then the scale for each piece had to be calculated -- all along keeping the same pieces on the same plates. Katherine Strange Burke did the work for the first ten plates, but the work was so tedious that I asked Leslie Schramer to continue with the last ten. At present, all that remains is the calculation of scale. So much work was put into these plates that we think it best to run one final proof copy by the author, just to be sure we got it all correct.

Excavations at Tall-e Bakun A, Seasons 1932 and 1937, by Abbas Alizadeh. Final page proofs have been given to and returned by the author. We are about halfway through entering the corrections.

Nippur, Volume 5: The Area WF Sounding, by Augusta McMahon, with contributions by David Reese and Pam Vandiver. We are right up to the point of being ready to return page proofs to the author, but we are waiting for issues with several plans to be resolved.

Chogha Mish 2: Final Report on the Last Six Seasons of Excavations, by Abbas Alizadeh. We are in the early stages of work on this volume, with most of the scanning completed and figures starting to be made.

SAOC 38. The Demotic Verbal System, by Janet Johnson. This volume is being prepared for electronic reprinting. The work on it is complete except for a few pages of indexing.

In addition to working on the titles listed above, we also sent the fall News & Notes and the 2003/2004 Annual Report to press for the Membership Office. Katherine Strange Burke prepared both publications for press.

+--+

RESEARCH ARCHIVES / Chuck Jones

Ben Trofatter joined the staff of the Research Archives early in the Summer, filling the shoes of Michael Beetley, who is now teaching at North Park University. Ben has taken over the retrospective cataloguing project, initiated under Michael. He is moving steadily and will soon complete the retrospective cataloguing of monographs whose author or editor's name begins with B. He also catalogued a backlog of some 165 dissertations we hold in digital form. We now have 598 recent dissertations, mostly North American, on our server. I hope to have easy local hyperlinked access complete shortly. A selection of fifty titles has been available for some time at: <http://oilib.uchicago.edu/diss.html> If you have comments on this method of delivery, please let me know.

Foy Scalf continues to work in the Research Archives. His efforts over the summer focused on the map sheet recataloguing project.

Useful, web accessible resources of the Research Archives include:

--The On-Line Catalogue of the Research Archives
(<http://oilib.uchicago.edu/oilibcat.html>)

--Abzu: a guide to the rapidly increasing, and widely distributed data relevant to the study and public presentation of the Ancient Near East via the Internet
(<http://www.etana.org/abzu/>)

--Home Page of the Research Archives
(http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/DEPT/RA/Research_Arch.html)
[aob1]

